



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION **INCIDENT REPORT**

**Tesoro Refinery (Site #B2758)
Martinez, CA
July 4, 2004**

On July 4, 2004 at about 1:45pm the Tesoro Refinery located in Avon, east of Martinez, experienced an upset at their #5 Boiler associated with the Fluid Coker Unit. The #5 Boiler, in addition to generating steam, mitigates some of the pollutants emitted from the Fluid Coker. The #5 Boiler experienced a tube failure inside the boiler. The boiler stack emitted a black plume of coke particulates, other pollutants, and steam. A Level-2 emergency notification was issued shortly after the start of the incident due to the potential for off-site/off-property impact. Tesoro refinery staff reported to the District a breakdown and emissions excess for the incident. The large plume of smoke from the boiler stack was visible throughout the day on July 4th and July 5th. On the evening of July 4, Tesoro refinery operations staff began to implement standing procedures for routing Coker effluent gases to the refinery #6 Boiler. By 4:30 am on July 6th, the Fluid Coker Unit gas was successfully re-routed to the #6 Boiler and the excessive visible emissions ceased.

District inspectors responded to the upset and were at the refinery in order to monitor the excesses and to assist the county personnel. The District received and confirmed 12 complaints regarding smoke, fall-out, and odor as a result of this incident. The winds at the time of the initial incident were prevailing from the west-northwest.

UPDATE:

On July 4th and 5th, 2004 District staff observed and recorded excessive visible emissions from the #5 boiler stack. Following the incident, District staff conducted an investigation/review of refinery boiler operations, past boiler tube failures, and inspection and maintenance procedures. The District issued three notices of violation for the incident.

1. NOV #A45942 – For an alleged violation of Regulation 1-301: Public Nuisance for smoke and odor complaints received (July 5, 2004)
2. NOV #A45949 – For an alleged violation of Regulation 6-301: Excessive Visible Emissions from the refinery # 5 boiler house (July 4, 5 and 6, 2004)
3. NOV #A45950 – For an alleged violation of Regulation 6-301: Excessive Visible Emissions from the refinery # 6 boiler house (July 6 and 7, 2004)

Notices of Violation issued by the District require immediate corrective action to bring the source into compliance and are subject to penalties pursuant to state law.

Following the boiler tube failure in the #5 Boiler, refinery crews performed extensive inspections and repairs before bringing the boiler back into operation. No excess levels of air contaminants were recorded on any emissions monitor or ground level monitor during the restart of the unit.